

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0053] with the following amended paragraph:

[0053] In accordance with the method of the present invention, a color change in the sensor reflects the presence of ammonia and not merely the pH of an aqueous solution which is in contact with the sensor. This color change is detected optically. In one embodiment, the color change is detected visually by the observation of the subject or a technician assisting the subject in the assay. In this embodiment, the color change may merely be read to confirm the presence or absence (but not the concentration) of ammonia in the fluid sample; alternatively, the degree of color change may be used as a quantitative or semi-quantitative measure of the concentration of ammonia in the fluid sample. In another embodiment, an optical reader is used to monitor the color change; for example, the optical reader may be a colorimetric reader, such as a spectrophotometer or laser, as more completely described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/024,170 (published as U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0113931) entitled "Ammonia and Ammonium Sensors," the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference ~~(Figure 8)~~. The color change may merely be read by the optical reader to confirm the presence or absence (but not the concentration) of ammonia in the fluid sample; alternatively, the degree of color change may be used as a quantitative or semi-quantitative measure of the concentration of ammonia in the fluid sample.

Please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

[0057] In one embodiment, the dye is intimately embedded or bound within the porous structure of the polymer such that a negligible amount, if any, dye leaches from the polymer when the polymer is exposed to the aqueous solution. In general, any method known in the art may be employed to embed or bind the dye to the pores of the polymer, including those methods described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/024,670 (published as U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0113932) entitled "Hydrophobic Ammonia Sensing Membrane," which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety ~~(Figure 9)~~.

Please replace paragraph [0065] with the following amended paragraph:

[0065] In the embodiment of Fig. 1, the container 117 of the detection unit 105 is constructed for holding a volume of liquid L, such as sterilized water, and the lower end of the sample connection branch 109 which includes a diffuser head 125 is immersed in the liquid. Exhalation passes out of the sample collection branch 109, through small openings 126 in the diffuser head 125 and into the liquid L. Diffusion of the breath sample by the head 125 facilitates retention of any ammonia in the sample by the liquid L. An ammonia sensing membrane 127 is located on the bottom of the container 117 in opposed relation with the diffuser head 125 so that the breath sample leaving the collection branch is spread within the liquid L and over the membrane. The membrane 127 is of the type which detects the presence of ammonia (and ammonium) in the breath sample and indicates the presence of ammonia through a change of color. Examples of suitable ammonia sensing membranes are described in co-assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/024,170 (U.S.

Patent Publication No. 2003/0113931), entitled Ammonia and Ammonium Sensors, and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/024,670 (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0113932), entitled Hydrophobic Ammonia Sensing Membrane, previously incorporated herein by reference. The membrane 127 is attached in a suitable manner, such as by ultrasonic or thermal welding to a bottom wall of the container 117.

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following amended paragraph:

[0066] An optical reader, indicated generally at 131 in Fig. 3, has an opening 133 in an upper surface for receiving at least the lower end of the container 117. In the illustrated embodiment, the container 117 is formed of an optically clear material so that the membrane 127 can be examined by the optical reader 131 through a wall of the container. The optical reader 131 may be of the type which sends light signals toward the membrane 127 so that a photo-detector (not shown) may read the color of the membrane. The optical reader 131 has a display 137 to output a suitable message indicative of the presence or absence of ammonia in the sampled breath based on the color of the membrane 127 detected. A suitable optical reader is disclosed in the aforementioned U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 10/024,170 (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0113931) and 10/024,670 (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0113932).

Please replace paragraph [0071] with the following amended paragraph:

[0071] A further aspect of the invention provides a kit to detect the presence of a bacteria capable of catalyzing urea to carbon dioxide and ammonia (Fig. 8). The kit comprises a sterile

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disposable breath sampler (e.g., breath sampler 201), a bottle 251 which contains urea concentrate, which can have a different volume with variant concentrations of urea, or a tablet 253 with equivalent solid urea (USP), and a nasal cannula 255.